A.17 pam
P 966D

Master PIMMES SPEECH TO THE LORDS IN Parliament,

Sitting in Westminster Hall the twelfth of April, 1642.

London printed, 1642.

13

Master

PIMMES SPEECH

TO

THE LORDS IN

Parliament,

Sitting in Westminster Hall
the twelfth of Aprill,
1641.

London printed, 1641

MASTER PIMMES Speech to the Lords in Parliament, sitting in Westminster Hall the twelfth of April 1641.

My Lords, Here hath been much time spent to prove our Charge, and your Lordships have heard my Lord of Strafords defence with as much patience. You have also heard our Evidence summed up whereby we have proved that he hath by traiterous words, Councels and Actions, traiterously endeavoured to subvert

vert the fundamentall Lawes of England and Ireland, and in stead thereof to introduce an Arbitrarie and tyrannicall Government against Law. This (my Lords) is that poysonous Arrow that hath tainted his blood, this is that Cup of deadly wine that hath intoxicated him.

My Lords, It coms to my share to shew you how mischievous an Act of Treason it is by that Law that hee hath appealed unto, which is the supreame Law, (to wit) publike good, for his Position was this, That *Salus Populi*, is *Suprema Lex*. All Lawes are derived from this as its fountaine, and end here as its proper Center. And those Actions that are opposite to this are against Law.

First, My Lords, It is such an offence as comprehends all offences, such a treason as comprehends all treasons. The Earth (my Lords) is a Seminarie of all flowers, so is this a Se-

manarie of all offences.

My Lords, this Law puts a difference betwixt good and evill; take away the Law (my Lords) and Nature becomes a Law to it selfe. As Pride will bee a Law, Lust will bee a Law, Rapine a Law, Treason a Law, which Lawes have ruled in Ireland ever since my Lord came thither.

Take away the Kings protection from the people, and you take away the peoples allegiance to the King. Prerogative is the bounds of libertie, and (my Lords) they must not contest one against another.

My Lords, I beseech you consider, yee have all under this custodie, and if you take away this, you take away your goods, liberties and lives.

My Lord hee saith, that Ireland was a conquered Nation, why? were not all Nations conquered? England, Wales, &c.

The

The next is this, that it is an offence full of danger to the Kings person and Crowne, it nourisheth dissention and tumults in a people. If you consider the histories of the Nations under arbitrary government, you shall finde them full of cruelty and bloody Massacres; yea, if you please to peruse our English histories, you shall finde that when Arbitrarie government was set up, how many Kings fell by cruell and bloody hands, which is fearefull to relate.

Thirdly, my Lords, It is dangerous to the King, First, in respect of his honour, Secondly, in respect of his profit, and Thirdly, in respect of his greatnesse: yet all these have beene put on upon the face of this Treason as so many vizards, can it be (my Lords) for the Kings honour, to have his Ministers to lay all the fault upon the King? To kill, to imprison, to use Rapine, to levie warre against his people, and to ruine

the

the State, and then all these dishonourable acts to be laid on the King. Is this for the Kings honour?

Secondly, It is contrary to his profit, for if there be not an affectionate supply from the people to the King, he can never grow in his revenue.

May, this (my Lords) is the Kings most certaine Revenue, that issues from the affection of his people, for other Revenue, as Lands, or the like, are subject to many inconveniences, to many fabrications and petitions, but this is free and wholly to himselfe. Those fourteene yeares past, since there hath beene an unhappy cessation of Parliamentary proceedings, the King hath had lesse Revenue, and it doth him lesse good.

Nay, there hath beene more granting to the King, than many yeers before. Againe, it is unprofitable, and that is worse, for the King loses by it, for it hath cost him these two yeares more than it cost Queene Elizabeth

zabeth in all her warres in Ireland and Spaine, yea, (I feare) more than is to bee repaired in an age.

Thirdly, in point of greatnesse, the World is a society of Kingdomes, and it is not enough for a King to be great at home, but to equall his fellow Princes abroad, Nay to bee above them in honour and Majestie, in Riches, and glory.

But my Lords, these Counsells of late that have beene given his Majesty, have rendred him contemptible to his enemies, useless to his allied friends, and had they not beene prevented, in time would have made him uncapable of any designe at home or abroad.

A fourth Consideration is this, my Lords, it is destructive to wealth and valour, it corrupts our peace, and in peace, makes us have the malignities of Warre: and for wealth, who will venture his goods, life, his liberty in the way

of

of trading and commerce, when hee knowes not upon the returne of it, whether it be his owne or no.

Nay, my Lords, it imbaseth the spirits and valour of a Nation, when they must stand in feare of pillorie, scaffolding, and the like punishments, it makes men to bee of base spirits.

Now my Lords, to imbase the Kings Coyne, if it be but six pence or twelve pence, tis Treason by the Law, and a man must dye for it: what is it then to imbase our spirits, my Lords? truly it is a matter of great importance.

Fifthly it doth disable the King, and makes him unfit to deale with forraigne enemies, for every one thinks to slip his necke out of the collar, when hee shall bee forced to it.

The first consideration is, that it is against the Covenant betwixt the King and his people.

Before my Lords I spoke of a legall Oath, but now I speake of a personall, for we sweare our allegeance to him, and he the maintenance of our Lawes to us: he is our husband, and we his wife; he is our father, and we his children: he is to maintaine our liberties, and we his Dignities, and our duties.

And my Lords, Justice Thorpe was condemned and executed, for breaking the Kings oath: My Lords, he broke not his own oath, nor did the King breake his oath, and yet for violating that oath, that the King had taken to his Subjects, he suffered.

Ah what an unfortunate man then

is the Prisoner at the Barre, that hath in all his Counsels, in all his words, in all his actions, broken the Kings oath, and as much as in him lay, violently perswaded the King to countenance him in all his actions?

The seventh consideration is this my Lords, it is against the end of government, for the end of government is to preserve men in their estates, lives, and liberties, but an Arbitrary power destroyes all this: the end of government is to advance vertue and goodnesse, and to punish vice: but this cherisheth all disorder.

Now my Lords, I come to shew the vanity of his excuses that he hath made for himselfe.

The first is the liberty of giving Counsell, being a Counsellour; true my Lords, he hath this liberty, but it's bounded within its lists, and it must be such a Counsell as must stand with the sacred Majesty, and the prosperity and weale of his Subjects, for if Counsell be bad, it poysons the Consciences of Princes, it infects their eares, for all government proceedes from the Prince, as from a fountaine: now if the fountaine bee poysoned, how can the streames bee free?

A second shift is, that hee hopes your Lordships will bee carefull to secure your posterity, and not to admit of this as Treason.

My Lords, I know your Lordships will be carefull to secure your selves, but by your vertues, not by your vices.

The third excuse is, the goodnesse

of his intentions; truly, my Lords, good and evill lye close together, not easily to be discerned, if they be naturall corruptions, but for Murthers, Adultery, Rapines, and Treasons, these are so monstrous, that they may easily be distinguished.

And I cannot bee perswaded that ever he intended well, that acted so ill.

The Fourth excuse is the Kings necessities.

My Lords, this necessity came from his owne counsels.

A fifth excuse is, that it was for the Kings honour, and the maintenance of the Kings power.

My Lords, it hath bin declared unto you, that the Kings power doth not extend to any thing against Law, by which he hath sworne to rule us, and

and to maintaine our Liberties and priviledges for us, and this hath bin declared by five Parliaments, and also will appeare in the case of the Petition of Right, and in the case of shipmoney.

A sixt is, that hee adviſed the King to do it with moderation and reparation.

My Lords this is a contradiction, for there can bee no reparation for this.

The seaventh execute is, that no horrid facts did follow his Counsels: truly my Lords we thanke God, his sacred Majesty, and his wise Counsell for that, or else God knowes what fearefull things would have befallen us, nor are wee free from it as yet.

To conclude, now my Lords, give me leave to entreat you to con-

sider

sider the Treasons ordinarily practised, when the act is done, they cease as in killing that noble King of *France*, and the severall plots against Queene *Elizabeth*, but this Treason of my Lord of *Strafford*, is a standing Treason, which when it had bin done, it had bin permanent from generation to generation.

And now my Lords, these lawes that he would have overthrown, must now bee his Judges, and hee is to be Judg'd by law, and that law will have marke enough of it to describe it, for it is a law against such as breake the fundamentall law of the Kingdome.

And my Lords give me leave to informe you that under favour this is not to make a new way for blood, nor is the crime of Treason in my Lord of *Strafford* the lesse, because

But my Lords, for the making of our charge good by law, as we have fully proved it by Testimony we must repair to Counsell with the house of Commons, and trust to your Lordships Justice.

FINIS.